

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 4. A portion of claim 14, and claim 18 have been incorporated into claim 10. Claim 21 was revised to make it more succinct. Claims 4 and 18 have been cancelled. Claims 1 – 3 , 5 – 17, and 19 -21 are now pending in this application. Reconsideration of the patentability of the pending claims is requested in view of the remarks and amendments set forth herein.

II. Objections to the Claims

Claims 4, 5, 14 and 15 were objected to because of various informalities. All of the Examiner's suggestions are incorporated into the present amendment. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the claims has been overcome.

III. 35 USC §112, Second Paragraph Rejection

Claims 2 – 9 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, 2nd paragraph for being indefinite. The Examiner pointed out that antecedent basis for “component tray” and “carrier” was lacking. Applicant submits that the amendment to claim 2 provides antecedent for each term recited therein. Accordingly, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the 35 USC 112 rejection of claims 2 -9.

IV. 35 USC §102 (b) Rejection

Claims 1 – 3, 6, 8-10, 12, 13, 16 and 18 -20 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 (b) as being anticipated by Nelson—U.S.

3,524,541 (hereinafter Nelson). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a carrier tray apparatus comprising “a longitudinal restraining structure that forces each of the component trays into contact with an adjacent component tray.” Nelson fails to teach or suggest including such a longitudinal restraining structure. Consequently, claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon are allowable over Nelson.

Nelson discloses a ribbed carrier having bracketed sidewalls and a bracketed middle wall; semiconductor trays are held in place by the ribs and the bracketed walls. (See Figs. 3 and 4.) By contrast, claim 10 recites “a carrier tray having a planar bottom support that supports the bottom of the component trays,” which is not present in Nelson’s carrier. Moreover, Applicants recite that their “component trays [are] located in the center of each carrier tray.” Fig. 3 of Applicants’ invention shows how trays are placed in a center planar region of the carrier. Applicants’ trays need not be precisely aligned within a cumbersome bracket structure as in Nelson’s carrier. Accordingly, Nelson fails to teach or suggest placing trays within the center of his carrier, as well as supporting those trays with a planar support region. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 and all claims dependent thereon are novel and non-obvious over Nelson.

V. 35 USC 103(a) Rejection

Claims 7, 8, 11, 17, and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 (a) over Nelson. This rejection is traversed. Claim 18 has been cancelled rendering its rejection moot.

All of the dependent claims that were rejected on obviousness grounds depend upon either claim 1 or claim 10. Claim

1 recites a longitudinal restraining structure which is not suggested or disclosed by Nelson. Claim 10 recites a planar support region for supporting component trays that are located in the center of each carrier tray. Neither of these features of claim 10 are suggested by Nelson. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 7, 8, 11 and 17 depend upon independent claims that are allowable over Nelson. As a result, dependent claims 7, 8, 11 and 17 are also allowable over Nelson. Consequently, Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw the 35 USC §103 (a) rejection over Nelson.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claim 21 is allowable. Claim 21 was amended to improve its readability. It is submitted that Claim 21 is still in allowable form.

Applicants also appreciate the indication that claims 4 and 14 would be allowable if amended to incorporate the features of the base claim. Applicants have amended the independent claim 1 to incorporate claim 4. In addition, Applicants amended claim 10 to include features from claims 14 and 18. Therefore, Applicants believe that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance indicating that claims 1 – 3 , 5 – 17, and 19 -21 are allowable. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (510) 449-0119 if any matters remain to be discussed concerning the allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isabelle R. McAndrews'.

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